

TOMMY ATKINS

Is Not Brave, His Officers Are Incompetent, Says an Englishman.

BITTER WORDS FOR ENGLAND.

Speaks Pessimistically of the Reception at Home of the British Soldiers—Blames Those in Power at London.

Judging from a perusal of most of the newspaper reports that have come to hand from the old country, it seems to be fashionable in the motherland just now to see no good in the Boers, either as a fighting machine or as a man, while to be in the mode a scribe should see in every "Tommy" a hero, and in every officer a paladin. Hence, I opine that I shall not be fashionable, for my observations have led me to the conclusion that "Tommy" in many respects is not nearly as good a fighter as his father or grandfather was. The average "Tommy" is a good fighter, but some of him is not worth the gun he carries. If I am asked for proofs of this assertion I simply point to Pretoria, where so many of our privates lie as prisoners, who have not, and never had, a wound. Did our fathers and grandfathers throw up their hands to the Russian hordes or the French legions thus? If they did, then history lies most damnably. My own opinion is that "Tommy" is now pampered too much in war time, while in peace he is neglected. People who now want to throw their arms around his neck, metaphorically speaking, would not be seen talking to him a month after the war ends.

I apply a good many of the above remarks to the officers, as well as the men, and not enough fighters. Thank God, there are a good many of the grand old breed still left in the British army—men whom it would be a pleasure to follow to the death, gallant gentlemen, who will go anywhere and do anything by fire or flood; men who have won their way by merit, and have not been pushed forward by family influence; men who have kept their heads on many a battlefield; men of whom the empire may well feel proud. But side by side with these pillars of the nation moves with jaunty step the dunces and the duds. They handle men on the field of battle, but nature never intended them to handle anything more important than a lady's lap-dog. Yet they get positions as officers simply because our whole army system is rotten to the inmost core, says a correspondent of the London News.

The Navy—A Comparison.

This is strange when we consider how near perfection our naval system is. More than once I have noticed a young naval officer moving among his men in the field, and I have made mental comparison between him and the subaltern of the army. The naval officer, though little more than a boy, has the set, stern face of a man who has been well and carefully trained to act as a leader of men. There is something about him which inspires confidence and commands respect. You know at a glance that he possesses confidence and commands respect. You know at a glance that he possesses a trained intellect; that he will be cool and collected under fire, dashing when dash is needed, cautious when mere courage would only be foolhardiness; strong, resourceful, resolute, unwavering, a central figure round which his men will instinctively group themselves in the heat of battle, looking with never-changing confidence to him for an example, for advice, for encouragement, for support, for leadership.

But it is not so with the subaltern. The soldier does not look to him for assistance when the seniors are shot down or taken prisoners. The soldiers instinctively turn to the non-commissioned officers when colonels or captains fall, because they know that the green boys who stand among them as officers know absolutely nothing concerning war. I do not blame the subalterns, but I do blame the men in power in London who have allowed such a state of affairs to come to pass, and should very much like to see a few of them standing in the ranks of a narrow ravine, between two kopjes full of armed Boers, and leave them to be helped out of danger by some bewildered boy-officer, who, for the time being cannot tell which end of his body his helmet should be on.

A Few Questions.

The subalterns do their best as a general rule. They are brave enough, but they lack experience, and they are battling against a foe who is both brave and clever, a foe who knows how to take advantage of every mistake; a foe who has been led about quite enough already in the British press. Just pause here, and answer this question, if you can: If the Boer fighting man is a coward, if his leaders are ignorant fellows, devoid of understanding, how is it that the British troops, splendidly armed and clothed and fed, led by our greatest generals, have not swept them in front of them like chaff before the wind? The reason that British troops have not walked through South Africa is that the Boers are superb fighters and are superbly led. No raw boys offer their armies, and the sooner Britain awakes to the fact that officers need long years of training before they are entrusted with the lives of soldiers, the better it will be for Britain. To manufacture successful officers it will be found necessary to take boys of thirteen and give them a thorough military training, not merely a military college education, but practical training. A lad who desires to become an officer should have it forcibly impressed upon him that he has to follow soldiering as a profession, not as a pastime. He should be compelled to do, and do thoroughly, everything that a private soldier



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dier does; then he should do the work of a petty officer, for if a youth is not competent to carry out in an efficient manner the duties of a corporal, how can he later in life make a good general? The British pride themselves on being a sound business nation; yet in this matter they throw business to the dogs, and go in for poetry. Yet I can assure the British public that there is very little poetry in modern warfare; and there is going to be less. An officer should know far more about the duties of a private soldier than a private does, but at the present time half the young fellows holding commissions in South Africa know less about a private's duties than a South Sea savage knows about mathematics. This statement may not make very palatable reading, but it is the truth, and no one knows it better than the very people who are responsible for the appointments.

Too Great a Price.

What is the use of having a Roberts or a Kitchener at the head of affairs if the officers who have to carry out the manoeuvres designed by those able leaders do not know their business in detail? It is simply absurd to say that the required experience will come with time; the experience that is picked up haphazard in the battlefield is paid for in the blood of butchered troops that ought to be saved; it is paid for in loss of prestige to the nation, brought about by reverses that should be victories, and it seems to me that such a price is too high to pay. The army of England should no longer be the dumping ground who want a little glory and a little active service. Men who hope to bear commissions should be men who are prepared to devote their lives to the service, as our naval officers do. They should be more than often under canvas and less often in drawing rooms. When this has been accomplished we need not fear that we shall hear of "Mr. Thomas Atkins" throwing down his rifle in the presence of the enemy, as he has been doing during this campaign.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

The Features of the Money and Stock Markets.

NEW YORK, May 28.—Money on call steady at 1 1/2 per cent. Prime mercantile paper, 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 per cent. Sterling exchange weak, with actual business in bankers' bills at \$4 7 1/4 to \$4 7 3/4 for demand and \$4 8 1/4 to \$4 8 3/4 for sixty days; posted rates, \$4 8 1/2 and \$4 8 3/4. Commercial bills, \$4 8 1/2 to \$4 8 3/4.

Bar silver, 60 1/2. Silver certificates, 60 1/2. Mexican dollars, 47 1/2. Government bonds steady. State bonds inactive. Railroad bonds weak.

The opening of a new week showed no material change in speculative conditions, and the stock markets of New York, London, Paris and Berlin continued dull and neglected. In New York another brokerage firm announced its suspension, the failure being announced as was that of Price, McCormick & Co., on the cotton and stock exchanges almost simultaneously. The closing out of the firm's contracts on the stock exchange, under the rule, resulted in transactions in about 10,000 shares. That prices were inclined to advance under the influence of the settlement was sufficiently explained, by the fact that the buying of stocks for the firm outnumbered the selling fully 3 to 1. That is to say, the house was largely short of the market. The failure is attributed to cotton speculation, as the recent movement of stocks has been in favor of outstanding contracts of the firm. Last week's rumor of financial difficulties, which specified this house, brought a pressure to bear on them, and precipitated the assignment. The fact that the same kind of rumors are circulated regarding some other houses is a factor in keeping Wall Street sentiment unsettled. The only notable movements during the day were the advances in Sugar, supposed to be on bear covering, and in Burlington, on a resumption of buying of the same character as that which has given the stock its recent strength. These advances prompted some sharp rallies at other points in the market, and some of the earlier losses were recovered. The market was semi-stagnant at times, and the closing was dull and irregular. London sold small amounts of stock, although that market as a whole showed some strength on the advance of the dollar. Dullness to-day was accentuated by the fact that the week will be interrupted by a holiday in New York, and by the year's great racing event in London. Sterling exchange was weak to-day.

The bond market was very weak, and showed weakness in sympathy with stocks. Total sales, par value, \$1,160,000. United States bonds were unchanged in bid quotations.

U. S. Bonds.

U. S. refunding..... U. S. new 4s cou. 1904
U. S. refunding..... U. S. old 4s reg. 115 1/2
U. S. 2s reg..... 96 1/2 U. S. old 2s cou. 115 1/2

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U. S. new 4s reg..... 115 1/2

Stocks.

Atchafalpa..... 25 1/2 Mo. Pacific..... 55
B. & O. Ohio..... 75 Mobile & T. 10 1/2
Can. Pacific..... 25 N. J. Central..... 117
Can. Southern..... 5 1/2 N. Y. Central..... 121
Ches. & Ohio..... 12 Norfolk & W. 3 1/2
Chicago & W. 12 1/2 Northern Pac. 2 1/2
Chi. Bur. & W. 12 1/2 Ont. & West..... 2 1/2
Chi. East & L. 21 1/2 Ore. Ry. & N. 4 1/2
Chi. & Ind. Ill. 10 1/2 do preferred..... 7 1/2
Chi. & N. W. 10 1/2 do preferred..... 7 1/2
Chi. R. I. & P. 10 1/2 do preferred..... 7 1/2
Col. Southern..... 12 1/2 Reading..... 15 1/2
do list pre..... 4 1/2 do list pre..... 4 1/2
do 2d pre..... 10 1/2 do 2d pre..... 10 1/2
Del. Lack. & W. 17 1/2 do preferred..... 8 1/2
Denver & R. G. 18 1/2 St. L. & San F. 10
do preferred..... 7 1/2 do list pre..... 8
Erie..... 12 1/2 St. Louis & W. 10 1/2
G. North. pre..... 13 1/2 do preferred..... 7 1/2
Hocking Coal..... 14 St. Paul..... 115 1/2
Hocking Valley..... 14 St. P. & Omaha..... 115 1/2
Iowa Central..... 17 1/2 Southern Pac. 23 1/2
do preferred..... 4 1/2 Southern Ry. 12 1/2
K. C. & N. W. 12 1/2 Texas & Pac. 16 1/2
L. Erie & W. 21 1/2 Union Pacific..... 16 1/2
do preferred..... 7 1/2 do preferred..... 7 1/2
Lake Shore..... 21 1/2 do preferred..... 7 1/2
L. & N. 12 1/2 do preferred..... 7 1/2
Met. St. Ry. 12 1/2 Wheel. & L. E. 9
Mex. Central..... 12 1/2 do 2d pre..... 2 1/2
Min. & St. L. 12 1/2 do 2d pre..... 2 1/2
do preferred..... 5 1/2 Third Ave. 11 1/2

Express Companies.

Adams..... 115 United States..... 115
American..... 115 Wells Fargo..... 115

Miscellaneous.

Am. Cotton Oil..... 23 1/2 Nat. Biscuit..... 23 1/2
do preferred..... 10 do preferred..... 10
Am. Malt..... 22 do preferred..... 10
Am. S. & Ref. 22 do preferred..... 10
Am. Spirits..... 24 N. Y. Air Brake..... 14
do preferred..... 17 N. American..... 14
Am. Steel Hoop..... 20 do list pre..... 60
Humble Oil..... 20 do list pre..... 60
Am. Steel & W. 35 1/2 do list pre..... 60
do preferred..... 7 1/2 Pacific Mail..... 60
Am. Tin Plate..... 21 1/2 Pacific Coast..... 60
H. & N. 21 1/2 Pressed Steel C. 43
Am. Tobacco..... 21 1/2 do preferred..... 7 1/2
do preferred..... 130 Pull. Pal. Car..... 130
Ankama..... 49 Stand. R. & T. 2 1/2
Col. F. & Iron..... 25 1/2 Sugar..... 115 1/2
Cont. Tobacco..... 23 1/2 Tenn. Coal & I. 7 1/2
do preferred..... 31 do preferred..... 31
Fidelity..... 24 U. S. Rubber..... 25 1/2
do preferred..... 6 1/2 U. S. Rubber..... 25 1/2
Gen. Electric..... 123 do preferred..... 25 1/2
Glucose Sugar..... 29 1/2 Republic I. & S. 13
Inter. Paper..... 21 1/2 do preferred..... 5 1/2
do preferred..... 6 1/2 P. C. & St. L. 50 1/2
Laclede Gas..... 68
Total stock..... 21,400 shares.

New York Mining Stocks.

Cholor..... 15 Ontario..... 700
Cuba..... 60 Ophir..... 63
Con. Cal. & Va. 126 Plymouth..... 12
Deadwood..... 80 Quicksilver..... 70
Gold & Norcross..... 25 Sierra Nevada..... 7
Homestake..... 5,000 Standard..... 360
Iron Silver..... 62 Union Con..... 169
Mexican..... 22 Yellow Jacket..... 12

Breadstuffs and Provisions.

CHICAGO.—The grain and provisions markets were quiet. Wheat was easy early on predictions of rain in the northwest to-night and favorable crop advices from the southwest, but steadied later on decrease in the visible, July closing 1/2c under Saturday. Corn closed 1/2c up and oats a shade reduced. The provisions market closed steady and practically unchanged.

When the season's hard wheat was affected by the fact that the northwestern states were generally without the rain they have been clamoring for and by the steadiness of cables. Reports from the southwest were favorable to the crop, but this did not prevent July, which had opened 1/2c lower at 65 1/2c, from advancing to 67 1/2c. Later the weather prognosticator said there was a probability of showers in the dry section to-night, and the selling thus caused, sent July back to 66 1/2c. The market steadied at this point on covering by shorts and later upon the announcement that the European visible had decreased 2,500,000 bushels, and the domestic visible 1,500,000 bushels, reduced to 67 1/2c. The close was steady, 1/2c under Saturday at 66 1/2c. The cash demand was slack and speculative trade slow throughout the session. New York reported twenty loads taken for export. Clearances in wheat and flour from the seaboard were equal to 300,000 bushels. Primary receipts were 81,000 bushels last year. Minneapolis and Duluth reported 757 cars, against 356 last week and 223 a year ago. Local receipts were thirty-eight cars, one of contract grade.

The corn market was quiet and easy the greater part of the session. Cables were weak, western farmers offering large receipts of the weather favorable. Local receipts 616 cars, was liberal enough to add to the bearish feeling. During the afternoon, however, the market steadied on the visible decrease of 2,500,000 bushels. July sold between 37c and 38 1/2c, and closed 1/2c over Saturday at 37c. The demand here was reported slack, although New York reported seventy loads taken for export.

Oats were easy and dull in a speculative way. The market was influenced by corn most of the session, but near the end did not recover as well as did the coarser cereal. Receipts here were shipping demand. July sold between 21 1/2c and 21c, closing a shade down at 21 1/2c to 21 1/4c. The provisions market opened lower on liberal hog receipts, lower market at the yards and a six pence reduction on product at Liverpool. Packers were full buyers and during the session nearly all the opening loss was recovered. July pork sold between 11 1/2c and 11 3/4c, and closed 2 1/2c under Saturday at 11 3/4c. July lard between 45 1/2c and 46 1/2c, closing unchanged at 46 1/2c. July ribs between 46 1/2c and 46 1/2c, with the close unchanged at 46 1/2c.

Estimated receipts to-morrow:

Wheat, 80 cars; corn, 65 cars; oats, 550 cars; hogs, 22,000 head.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

| Articles. | Open. | High. | Low. | Close. |
|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Wheat, No. 2 | 66 1/2 | 66 | 65 1/2 | 65 1/2 |
| July | 66 1/2 | 66 | 65 1/2 | 65 1/2 |
| Corn, No. 2 | 36 | 36 1/2 | 36 | 36 1/2 |
| May | 36 | 36 1/2 | 36 | 36 1/2 |
| Sept. | 37 1/2 | 37 1/2 | 37 1/2 | 37 1/2 |
| Oats, No. 2 | 21 1/2 | 21 1/2 | 21 1/2 | 21 1/2 |
| May | 21 1/2 | 21 1/2 | 21 1/2 | 21 1/2 |
| Sept. | 20 1/2 | 20 1/2 | 20 1/2 | 20 1/2 |
| Mess Pork | 11 1/2 | 11 3/4 | 11 1/2 | 11 3/4 |
| July | 11 1/2 | 11 3/4 | 11 1/2 | 11 3/4 |
| Lard | 45 1/2 | 46 1/2 | 45 1/2 | 46 1/2 |
| Sept. | 45 1/2 | 46 1/2 | 45 1/2 | 46 1/2 |
| Short Ribs | 46 1/2 | 46 1/2 | 46 1/2 | 46 1/2 |
| Sept. | 46 1/2 | 46 1/2 | 46 1/2 | 46 1/2 |

Cash quotations were as follows:

Wheat—No. 2, 65 1/2 to 66 1/2; No. 2 red 70c.

Corn—No. 2, 36 1/2 to 37 1/2; No. 2 yellow 36 1/2 to 37 1/2.

Oats—No. 2, 21 1/2 to 22 1/2; No. 2 white 21 1/2 to 22 1/2.

Barley—Good feeding, 36 1/2 to 37c.

Flaxseed—Fair to choice, 40 1/2 to 41c.

Malted—No. 1, \$1.80; No. 1 northwestern \$1.80.

Timothyseed—Prime 42 to 43; 10 lb 15 to 17.

Mess Pork—100 lbs \$6.50 to \$6.75.

Short Ribs—Sides (loose) 35 1/2 to 36c.

Dry salted shoulders (boxed) 6 1/2 to 6 3/4c.

Short clear sides (boxed) \$6.90 to \$7.00.

Whisky—Basis of high wines, \$1.23.

Sugars unchanged.

Clover—Contract grade, \$7.50.

Butter—Steady; creameries 15 1/2 to 16c; dairies 13 1/2 to 14c.

Cheese—Steady at 8 1/2 to 9c.

Eggs—Steady; fresh 11c.

NEW YORK—Flour, receipts 22,170 barrels; exports 12,170 barrels; market dull but quite steady, having no pressure to sell.

Wheat, receipts 10,500 bushels; exports 8,500 bushels; spot market steady; No. 2 red 2 1/2c f. o. b. aboard; No. 2 spot; market entirely nominal; No. 2 red 7 1/2c elevator; No. 1 Northern Duluth 7 1/2c f. o. b. aboard prompt; options opened easy; closed steady 1/2c @ 1/4c net decline; close May, 7 1/4c; July, 7 1/2c; September, 7 3/4c.

Corn, receipts 22,500 bushels; exports 15,500 bushels; spot market firm; No. 2, 4 1/2c f. o. b. aboard; options closed firm at a partial 1/2c advance; May closed at 4 1/2c; July closed at 4 1/2c; September, 4 3/4c.

Oats, receipts 17,500 bushels; exports 60 bushels; spot market weak; No. 2, 2 1/2c; No. 2 white 2 1/2c; track white 2 1/2c @ 3 1/4c; options very slow and easier with corn.

Hay easy. Hops and leather steady.

Hides firm. Cutmeats dull. Coal steady. Beef quiet. Lard easy. Pork easy. Butter steady. Cheese easy.

Eggs firm. Tallow easy. Rice firm. Turpentine, molasses and peanuts steady.

Coffee, opened steady at five points advance; closed firm at 5 1/2 points advance; sales, 14,000 bags.

Sugar, raw steady; refined firm.

BALTIMORE—Flour steady; western super 3 1/2c to 3 3/4c; do extra 3 1/2c to 3 3/4c; do family 3 1/2c to 3 3/4c; winter wheat patents 3 1/2c to 3 3/4c; spring wheat straight 3 1/2c to 3 3/4c; receipts 25,100 barrels; exports 375 barrels. Wheat, dull and lower; spot and May 70 1/2c to 71c; July, 70 1/2c to 71c; steamer No. 2 red 6 1/2c to 6 3/4c; receipts 9,019 bushels; southern wheat by sample 65 1/2c. Corn dull; spot and May 41 1/4c to 41 1/2c; July, 41 1/4c to 41 1/2c; receipts 16,105 bushels; exports 15,711 bushels; southern white corn 45 1/2c to 46c; No. 2 white 23 1/2c to 24c; No. 2 mixed 24 1/2c to 25c; Hay quiet; No. 1 Timothy 61 1/2c to 62c; Cheese steady; large, 10 1/2c to 10 3/4c; small, 11 1/2c to 12c. Butter firm; fancy creamery 21 1/2c to 22c; do imitation 17 1/2c to 18c; store packed 13 1/2c to 14c. Eggs firm at 15c.

CINCINNATI—Flour steady; fancy 3 1/2c to 3 3/4c; family, 3 1/2c to 3 3/4c; No. 2 dull; No. 2 red 7c. Corn easy; No. 2 mixed 40 1/2c; Oats dull; No. 2 mixed 35 1/2c; Rye steady; No. 2, 6 1/2c. Lard quiet at 57c. Bulkmeats quiet at 57 1/2c. Bacon quiet at 47 1/2c. Whiskey dull at \$1.23. Butter steady. Sugar steady; hard refined 4 1/2c to 4 3/4c. Eggs quiet at 10 1/2c. Cheese steady and lower; good to prime Ohio flat 3c.

NEW YORK—The visible supply of grain Saturday, May 28, as compiled by the New York Produce Exchange is as follows: Wheat, 44,755,000 bushels; corn, 1,503,000 bushels; oats, 12,687,000 bushels; decrease, 2,540,000 bushels. Oats, 6,785,000 bushels; increase, 400,000 bushels. Rye, 1,067,000 bushels; decrease, 51,000 bushels. Barley, 94,000 bushels; increase, 115,000 bushels.

TOLEDO—Wheat dull and lower; spot 7 1/4c; May, 7 1/4c. Corn dull and unchanged; No. 2 cash 33c. Rye dull and lower; No. 2 cash 53c. Clover and dull and higher; cash prime old \$4.70; prime new \$5.00; October, \$5.20.

Live Stock.

CHICAGO—Cattle, receipts 22,000 head; steers generally about steady; choice light firm; butchers' stock opened weak and closed firm; natives, best on sale to-day, four carloads short horns at \$5.55; good to prime steers \$5.00 to \$5.70; poor to medium \$4.40 to \$4.85; selected feeders \$4.40 to \$5.00; mixed stockers \$4.75 to \$5.25; hogs, receipts to-day, 40,000 head; to-morrow, 20,000 head; estimated left over, 4,000 head; market 50c to 10c lower; top, 35c; mixed and butchers \$5.00 to 25c; good to choice heavy 15 1/2c to 16c; rough heavy 15 1/2c to 16c; light, 14 1/2c to 15c; bulk sales 15 1/2c to 16c. Sheep, receipts to-day, 10,000 head; to-morrow, 10,000 head; good to choice wethers \$4.35 to 4.50; fair to choice mixed \$4.25 to 4.50; western sheep \$4.25 to 4.50; yearlings, 5.25 to 5.50; native lambs \$4.50 to 4.75; western lambs \$4.00 to 4.25.

EAST LIBERTY—Cattle active and higher; extra 50c to 55c; prime, 45c to 50c; common, 35c to 45c. Hogs active; extra heavy 5 1/2c to 5 3/4c; assorted medium 5 1/2c to 5 3/4c; heavy Yorkers 5 1/2c to 5 3/4c; pigs, 5 1/2c to 5 3/4c; sheep, 5 1/2c to 5 3/4c; roughs, 5 1/2c to 5 3/4c; sheep lower; choice wethers \$4.75 to 5.00; common, 2 1/2c to 3 1/2c; choice lambs 3 1/2c to 4 1/2c; common to good 3 1/2c to 4 1/2c; val calves 3 1/2c to 4 1/2c.

CINCINNATI—Hogs active at \$4.50 to 5 1/2c.

Dry Goods.

NEW YORK—The Fall River committee reduced the price of prime cloths to-day to the basis of 3 1/2c for 28-inch cloth, but up to the close there had been no improvement in the demand thereat. Wide goods are dull without change in price. Moderate sales of heavy brown cottons for export, but no improvement in home demand. Prices without change. Bleached cottons slow and irregular outside of ladies' tickets. Turkish cottons, business is limited and demand met at previous prices. Prints quiet but in fancy and staples. Ginghams unaltered. White goods dull but steady.

Petroleum.

OIL CITY—Credit balances \$1.31; certificates, no bids; shipments, 114,156 barrels; average, 35,560 barrels; runs, 123,774 barrels; average, 90,887 barrels.

NEW YORK—Standard oil stock, \$5.64 to \$5.70.

TOLEDO—Oil unchanged.

Wool.

NEW YORK—Wool dull.

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